

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 13, 2006 has been carefully considered along with the references cited therein. In the subject Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Takami et al. (JP Patent No. 404187448). Claims 8-11 and 13-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuzuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,882,596) in view of Perevozchikov (U.S. Patent No. 6,139,291) and further in view of Takami et al. Claim 12 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Claims 18-20 were indicated as allowed. Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter.

In this response, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-7, 9, 10, 12, 21 and 22, without prejudice. These claims may be pursued in a divisional application since this application was the subject of a restriction requirement.

Applicants have amended claims 8, 11 and 13. Claim 8 has been amended to include the limitation presented in original claim 12, which the Examiner found to be allowable. Accordingly, claim 8 is deemed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 11 and 13 were amended in response to the claim amendments made to claim 8.

New claims 23 and 24 have been added to the application. These claims depend from claim 8, which is in allowable form. Moreover, these claims do not add any new matter to the subject application. Support for the claim 23 is found at paragraph [0019]. Support for claim 24 is found at paragraph [0026].

Since Applicants have simply placed the claims into condition for allowance and added two new claims that depend from an allowable claim, Applicants believe this application to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 8, 11, 13-20, 23 and 24) are now in condition for allowance. The foregoing comments do not require unnecessary additional search or examination.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to call Jonathan A. Withrow, at Telephone Number (216) 861-5582.

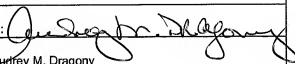
Respectfully submitted,

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December 19, 2006
Date

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